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INTERNAL ROUTE SLIP
HEADQUARTERS, EUROPEAN COMMAND

FILE NO: VII-2503.38
SUBJECT: PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY DETACHMENT   DATE: 28 March 1950

(Number each memo or minute consecutively. Fill in each column, signed legibly
draw a line across the sheet. Use entire width of sheet for long memoranda.)

No.	From	Pass to	Date	HAS THIS PAPER BEEN COORDINATED WITH ALL CONCERNED?
1	CO Reg VII	Hqs 66th CIC Det Attn: Lt J. M. HOBBINS	28 Mar 1950	1. Request that this Region be informed if the following persons are actually employed by the Public Opinion Survey Branch and if they are on an authorized mission in the COBURG (M51/028) area.

a. Hans Guenter BERNAU, alias Guenter BAER, born 30 March 1917 in GOLDBERG (M5a/T06), residing at Albert Chaeflerstrasse 90, STUTTGART (L49/S02).

b. Walter GEIPEL, alias Werner GRUNER, born 15 April 1916 in PLAUEN (M51/K12), residing at FASSMANNSREUTH (M51/P19).

2. On 1 March 1950, the Bavarian Border Police informed the COBURG Field Office that they had apprehended an illegal border crosser who gave his name as MORGENROTT, stating that he was from the East Zone and was supposed to contact a Mr. GRUNERT in COBURG. MORGENROTT stated that both he and GRUNERT worked for the Americans. He stated that GRUNERT could be reached at the Hotel Anker, COBURG.

3. Werner GRUNERT, registered at the Hotel Anker, COBURG, when contacted, stated that he had already been notified by the Bavarian Border Police and that he had cleared MORGENROTT. GRUNERT stated that he was awaiting his chief, Guenter BAER from KRONACH (M51/058). GRUNERT identified himself with a Kennkarte Number 498441, issued in FRANKFURT (L51/M67) on 31 January 1949. His birthdate was listed as 11 May 1917 in PLAUEN. He later stated that his true name was Walter GEIPEL and produced an identity card issued in REHAU (M51/P09) on 10 November 1949. He stated that his identity card from the American Information Office had expired on 31 December 1949 and has not been returned to date.

4. GEIPEL's chief arrived at the Hotel Anker and identified himself as Guenther BAER, Kennkarte number WB V 48556, issued 8 July 1949 in STUTTGART. His birthdate was listed as 12 October 1917 in LIEGNITZ (coord unk). He later stated that his true name was Hans Guenter BERNAU, born 30 March 1917 in GOLDBERG. He was issued Kennkarte number WB IX 17109 on 14 December 1949 in STUTTGART. He was driving a 1947 Volkswagen, US Registration Number 1 844 488, license number AB 54-4627. His letter of authorization for purchasing gasoline from EES was signed by Colonel Robert C. PIERCE, Hqs Public Opinion Survey Detachment, APO 403, US Army, MUNICH (M49/Y85). telephone 74688. BERNAU stated that the agents of the Public Opinion Survey Detachment in the COBURG area have the responsibility

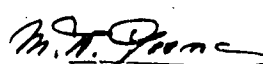COORDINATION WITH US Army

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1 cont.

of procuring military information of the 4th Soviet Elite Army Area, which is the Thuringen area and a part of the Sachsen area with the Soviet Army Headquarters in WEIMAR (M51/J57).

        5. The COBURG Field Office has been requested to intervene on two different occasions to aid illegal border crossers of the Public Union Survey Detachment. GEIPEL carried a large briefcase full of papers which he states is his personal file of all accumulated information which he carries with him at all times. The SEIB Field Office believes that GEIPEL was dropped by an American agency in December 1949 because of his illegal smuggling activities in the SEIB area.

M. W. GEENS
Maj   Inf
Commanding

WOJG R. L. SAMPSON, CE Team Cmdr/kd/
         BAYREUTH 8891/5

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Page 2 of 2 Pages
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